

THE BRONZE AND EARLIER IRON AGE POTTERY IN CONTEXT

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of syntheses such as this one are twofold, firstly, to present the data — what we know and what we do not know — and the conclusions drawn from these, in an economical and accessible way, and secondly, to do so in a way which informs our wider, extra-regional understanding of the subject. The Coastal Plain did not exist in a vacuum during the Bronze Age: rather, it was part of a wider European continuum. This chapter therefore considers the new data generated by the analyses of the second and earlier first millennium BC pottery assemblages from the foregoing sites in the context of the contemporary ceramic record of the Coastal Plain and the surrounding regions *as a whole*. As such, it forms part of an ongoing programme of study by the present writer, and by other specialists formerly or currently active in the region (Seager Thomas 2008). Its intention is not to supersede any pre-existing work, but — rather — to complement it, and as such it emphasizes those aspects of the assemblages, which have informed this, or which usefully add to it. The principal research areas raised are: assemblage dating, the affinities of the forms and fabrics comprising the assemblages; and pottery depositional context (what are its implications for assemblage integrity and representativeness and how do these affect our understanding of the nature of settlement during the period?). These are discussed in terms of the internal and external relationships of the pottery *groups* present, both context and site, which together provide the basic raw material of most pottery study today. These are considered individually, as part of a specifically Coastal Plain group, with wider relationships to analogous groups from other regions, and as successive and/ or overlapping parts of a longer chronological sequence. It is also intended, however, that the chapter should stand alone and, accordingly, some details of our existing knowledge of pottery in the region are reiterated.

STUDY CONTEXT

To date, excavation on the Coastal Plain has yielded 30-odd significant pottery site assemblages of Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age and Late

Site name	Pottery tradition/ current 'Three Age System' dating								Reference
	Collared/ Biconical Urn	DR	DR/ PDR	PDR plain ware	PDR developed plain ware	PDR decorated	Pedestal based pottery	Saucepan pot continuum	
Angmering Bypass		X	X	X					Seager Thomas 2008; Seager Thomas & Hamilton 2002a
Angmering, Roundstone Lane	X	X	?			X	X	X	See above
Birdham, Main Road		X		X	X				See above
Bognor College		X		X	X	X			See above
Bosham, Knapp Farm				X					Gardiner & Hamilton 1997
Charmandean	X								Musson 1954; Seager Thomas 2008; Tomalin 1995
Chichester Cattle Market	X								Musson 1954; Seager Thomas 2008
Chichester, Kingsham Farm				?			X		Barber & Seager Thomas unpub.
Chichester, St. Barts					X				See above
Climping, Waterford Gardens	X	X		X					See above
Climping, Yapton Road	X	X	X	X					See above
Drayton	X	X		X					Seager Thomas 2010d & e
Durrington, Hildon Close		X	X	X					See above
Durrington, Northbrook College					X	X			See above
Ford Airfield 1				X	X	X	X		Hamilton 2004
Ford Airfield 2	X	X			X			X	See above
Kingston Buci		X		X					Curwen 1931; Seager Thomas 2008
Littlehampton Bypass				X					Seager Thomas 2008
Littlehampton	X	X		X	X				See above
Littlehampton Golf Course		X							Seager Thomas 2008; 2010b
Littlehampton, Wickbourne	X	X		X			X	X	Gilkes 1992; 1993; Musson 1954; Seager Thomas 2008
Oving		X							Watson 2000
Rustington					X	X			Hamilton 1990
Selsey, Coast Guard Station				X	?				Seager Thomas 1998; 2008
Selsey, Golf Links Lane				X				X	White 1934
Selsey, East Beach		X				X			Kenny 1989; Seager Thomas 2001
Selsey, Seaside Field					X	?			Seager Thomas 1998; 2001; 2008
Westbourne	X								Musson 1954
Westhampnett, area 5	X						X		Fitzpatrick <i>et al.</i> 2008
Westhampnett, Claypit Lane	X	X		X					Every & Mephram 2006
Worthing, Centenary House		X	X	X					See above
Yapton, Drove Lane					X	?			Hamilton 1987

Table 1. Bronze and earlier Iron Age pottery from the West Sussex Coastal Plain

Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date ([Table 1](#)). Eleven of these, excavated by Archaeology South-East between 1993 and 2007, are fully published here for the first time. These comprise pottery belonging to, respectively, the Collared/ Biconical Urn, the DR and the PDR pottery traditions, and, a new coinage for this chapter, the pedestal jar group. For Sussex, the earlier of these traditions have been discussed in detail by John Barrett (1980, 311), Sue Hamilton (e.g. 1993; 2004), Ian Longworth (1984), Ann Woodward (Ellison 1978; 1980), and the present writer (Seager Thomas 2008). The pottery comprising the pedestal jar group, which in the past has been lumped with that belonging to Barry Cunliffe's Park Brow-Caesar's Camp group (e.g. in the Slonk Hill assemblage — Hartridge 1978, 115), remains substantially unresearched. The method of pottery analysis applied to the eleven assemblages, and upon which this analysis rests, follows the standard protocols of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (1991) (see *The Prehistoric Pottery*, *below*).

INTERPRETATIVE PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE STUDY OF POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES FROM THE SUSSEX COASTAL PLAIN

As well as providing a wealth of new data, the analysis of these assemblages raised some tricky interpretative issues, only some of which it was possible to overcome. The first of these relates to the local pedology. Owing to the nature of soil development on the Plain, and the depth to which this reaches, it can be very difficult to distinguish the edge of features there. Most are truncated before they are recognized and when they are, their extent and stratigraphic relationships frequently remain obscure (Gardiner & Hamilton 1997, 72; Fitzpatrick 1997, 4 & 37; Seager Thomas 2010a, 8–9). The usual result is: no whole context assemblages, little context integrity, and no way at all to relate one context assemblage to another — except horizontally. On sites where more than one pottery tradition is represented, this can make the resolution of interpretatively useful groups more than usually difficult, with the result that both on-site feature dating and cross-context and cross-site comparisons are compromised.

In addition, owing to the hardness of its clayey soils, most excavation on the Plain is necessarily carried out using a mattock, and few things confuse a typological detail or a structured relationship more effectively than the impact of a mattock.

The second relates to the technological nature of the pottery traditions on the Plain. Some of these are readily distinguishable. It is easy for example to identify Early Bronze Age pottery because the coarse, grog-tempered fabric used for most Collared and Biconical Urns locally was characteristic of and largely restricted to those pottery traditions. Most of

the Early Bronze Age finds listed in [Table 1](#) comprise single or just a few featureless sherds, but their identification is certain. By contrast, across West Sussex — including the Coastal Plain — similar flint-tempered fabrics are associated with Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery traditions (Seager Thomas 2008, 47). To all intents and purposes, unassociated sherds in these fabrics are undatable — and, as we saw above, the pedology of the Plain ensures the destruction of many pottery associations.

Lastly there are depositional issues which appear to be peculiar to the Plain. Sue Hamilton has written: ‘The large scale middening of material and the subsequent levelling of sites by clearing midden material into pits and ditches has increasingly been recognized as a Late Bronze Age phenomena in southern England’ (2003, 37). For the Plain, this view is based on the identification at Birdham, Knapp Farm, Selsey Seaside Field, Centenary House and Yapton, of joining sherds or sherds from the same pots or in the same rare fabric suites, in different features. Features could have been filled simultaneously, when the site was abandoned, or piecemeal, when previously backfilled features were disturbed, and the material from them used to close another, or when material from an upstanding midden was used for the same purpose. Irrespective of the mechanism employed, however, from a practical point of view, the possibility that rubbish was deposited elsewhere prior to final deposition, raises issues relating to the compositional and chronological integrity of individual pottery assemblages.

DATING THE POTTERY

Owing to the almost complete lack of vertical stratigraphy, the dating of the earlier pottery assemblages from the eleven sites rests primarily upon the identification of cross-site parallels, the loose seriation of groups of pottery fabrics and forms, and the radiocarbon dating of both these and analogous assemblages from elsewhere in Sussex. Six broad periods are represented, Early Bronze Age represented by pottery belonging to Collared/ Biconical Urn tradition, the Middle Bronze Age, by pottery belonging to the Deverel-Rimbury (*hereafter* DR) tradition, the Late Bronze Age, by pottery belonging to the plain ware and developed plain ware phases of the post Deverel-Rimbury (*hereafter* PDR) tradition, the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age transition, by pottery belonging to the final, decorated phase of the PDR tradition, and the Early Iron Age, by pottery belonging to the pedestal jar tradition. A possible early sub-division of the decorated phase of the PDR tradition, associated with Sussex downland sites and perhaps represented on the Coastal Plain by the PDR assemblage from Yapton (Hamilton 1987, figs 4 & 5) is not obviously represented. This

hiatus, however, *may* be typological rather than chronological, for the analysis of sherds from several of the assemblages, suggests that some apparently plain ware assemblages from the Plain are later than they appear. (Better evidence will be required before this can be stated with certainty).

The forms and fabrics comprising these traditions, and their current radiocarbon and Three Age System dating are discussed in Seager Thomas 2008.

KEY POTTERY GROUPS

The following section identifies the traditions represented, describing and contextualizing a few diagnostic context assemblages, of which, despite the caveats raised in the previous section, there are a usefully distinguishable range. The examples given have been chosen either because they are diagnostic of these traditions locally, because they display some previously unrecognized and therefore undescribed characteristic, or, because a detailed description of them usefully informs the discussion of research themes below. Readers uninterested in the minutiae of Bronze Age pottery typology may wish to skip to the following section.

The Collared/ Biconical Urn tradition

Early Bronze Age grog-tempered pottery amongst the assemblage is represented primarily by small featureless sherds, most from later contexts. Feature sherds from only three pots survive: two from Waterford Gardens and one from Yapton Road, Climping. Most diagnostic of the tradition locally is Waterford Gardens 2, from the collar of a so-called a *Secondary Series* or *Late Collared Urn*. It is decorated with twisted-cord impressions, known on the Plain from, for example, Chichester Cattle Market, Drayton and Westhampnett (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008, fig. 41; Seager Thomas 2008, fig 3.4; Seager Thomas 2010e). The other Waterford Gardens sherd is somewhat more problematical as, in spite of its fabric, when first examined its form and whipcord impressed decoration suggested to the present writer a Peterborough Ware variant, not a Bronze Age pot at all! The pot from Yapton Road (Yapton Road 1) is a Biconical Urn. To date, the county has yielded no exact parallels for it, but its weak shoulder recalls a pot from Lancing (Seager Thomas 2008, fig. 4), while pronounced everted rims similar to its occur in the assemblage from the Bronze Age funerary monument near Crowlink, East Sussex (Hamilton 2001a, fig 13), and nearer-to in the flint-tempered Charmandean Biconical Urn (Seager Thomas 2008, fig. 4) and a vessel from Westhampnett (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2008, 120). *Regional* parallels for it come from Guildford

(Needham 1987, fig. 5.3), Dorset (Calkin 1962) and Frethun, on the French side of the Pas de Calais (Bostyn *et al.* 2000, fig. 16). For the most part, these pots have applied mouldings on the shoulder — usually an inverted horseshoe-shaped handle — and it is suggested that the pot from Yapton Road would likewise have been supplied with some kind of moulding, which, in its case, has failed to survive.

Deverel-Rimbury (DR)

DR was a very long-lived tradition — c. 500 years, or longer if you believe the Sussex radiocarbon dates, during which time it is *supposed* not to have changed in any recognizable way. This of course is nonsense: of course it changed. Compare, for example, the published assemblages from the proximate sites of Itford Hill (Burstow & Holleyman 1957; Ellison 1972) and Plumpton Plain (Hawkes 1935). The fabrics from the two sites are undoubtedly similar but typologically, parts of these assemblages are so different that, except for the presence on both of fancy decorated bowls, they are hardly recognizable as belonging to the same tradition at all. This unacknowledged difference both simplifies and complicates — because it is wrong, but nonetheless requires explanation — the study of DR pottery everywhere, including on the Plain.

What then have we got? In terms of pot numbers, Angmering — both Roundstone Lane and the Bypass site — yielded one pot for every 20 years, when the average life of longest lived individual pot is reckoned to be half of that! (Schiffer 1989, 49). That is to say, we have the *tiniest* fraction of the potential koine.

The bulk of the individual context groups here belonging to the DR tradition consist of a few sherds only from a single, usually coarsely flint-tempered pot of large size (e.g. Littlehampton 1 and 2). These so-called ‘heavy-duty’ pot types, as opposed to ‘every day’ or ‘fine ware’ types (as classified in Ellison 1980; 1981), are characteristic of funerary groups on the Plain — which is what most *probably* belong to — but not of the tradition as a whole, which is only accurately represented on the Plain, and even then only incompletely, in the assemblage from Roundstone Lane, the only one from the vicinity of an identifiable settlement (the Angmering Bypass site), possibly a small group from Drayton (Seager Thomas 2010d), and in transitional DR/ PDR assemblages from Centenary House and Climping (*see below*). In addition to urned cremations (e.g. cremations [300] and [508]), Roundstone Lane yielded a number of context assemblages, which collectively, comprised five, and individually up to four flint-tempered fabrics, as well as sherds from ‘heavy-duty’, ‘everyday’ and ‘fine ware’ pot types (e.g. from ditch [545]). All five either occur in common, typologically diagnostic DR forms within the assemblage (Angmering 21, for example, a DR bucket urn, is in fabric *CF*; and Angmering 26–7, a DR bossed jar, is in fabric *VCF2*), have dated regional

parallels (*MCF* is of the same grade as Ann Woodward's Itford Hill fabric B — Ellison 1972, 106), or were securely associated on site with other DR pottery (fabric *FF* with cremation [300]); while, compared to similar grade flint-tempered wares from early first millennium BC sites, all are poorly fired and most thicker. When we compare it to other assemblages belonging to the DR tradition (Plumpton Plain, Mile Oak, Westhampnett — Every & Mephram 2006; Hamilton 2002; Hawkes 1935), it seems that it probably is representative of it, at least within the limited chronological parameters of the site's occupation.

But the record for the DR tradition is not the same across the Plain, nor is the record from Plain identical to that from the Downs. Angmering 30 and 46, for example, although obviously DR, are currently unparalleled. Analogous rare DR forms here include the fingertip impressed rim (Angmering 38, Birdham 1 and Littlehampton 2) and comb-impressed decoration (Centenary House 5), both of which are recurrent locally, but by no means universal. (Comb impressions are currently known from only five Sussex sites — Centenary House, Drayton, Findon, Park Brow and Westhampnett). It is the view of the present writer that these features reflect different sub-phases of the DR tradition. But we have to be very careful with such sparse data, for, although they may be of chronological significance, it is equally possible they are a manifestation of local or even individual expression. Currently we don't have the data to be *sure* one way or another.

The Deverel-Rimbury/ post Deverel-Rimbury transition

The Plain has yielded context assemblages from four or five sites, which are likely to be transitional between DR and PDR (Table 1). The identification of such assemblages is difficult, and the exact attribution of individual sherds within them — and therefore the dating of the features which yielded them — will always remain uncertain. On the Plain, the evidence for them includes: the occurrence of PDR forms in fabrics which elsewhere would pass for DR, and *visa versa*, and the occurrence of DR forms in PDR fabric types, or — more commonly — in repeated, *direct* association with PDR pottery (the implication being that the two were used side by side).

The best example amongst the present assemblages is Yapton Road 3, whose on-site associations included both DR (Yapton Road 2 & 4, and if we include Waterford Gardens, that site's pots 3 & 4) and early PDR (Yapton Road 8) pottery. Its fabric (*CFG*), the even thickness of the sherds comprising it, and its lumpy, roughly smoothed finish are all DR, and any single body sherd from it would, in isolation, have been attributed to this tradition, but in Sussex, its shouldered form and hooked rim are early PDR.

Ironically, however, the best evidence of all, at least for specialists familiar with both traditions, is an inability to untangle and decide to which

tradition — DR or PDR — a particular context, or site assemblage belongs (Centenary House etc.).

Outside the present groups, the only other Sussex transitional DR/PDR assemblage *so far* identified with confidence is from Beddingham Villa (pit [410]), in East Sussex. It yielded both stratified early PDR and unstratified later PDR pottery, but, unlike Climping, *no* unequivocally DR pot types (Seager Thomas 2006a). The transitional group comprises three analogous thick-bodied, hooked-rim convex-sided jars in coarse DR-type fabrics, one of which like Yapton Road's *CF1* incorporated grog. (This latter observation may, or may not, prove to be of interpretative significance).

Post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR)

Unravelling PDR locally is a nightmare. It is clear from the large pottery assemblages belonging to the tradition that have now been recovered from the Plain and elsewhere, that both it and these evolved over time, but owing to the nature of this evolution, which appears for the most part to have entailed the augmentation of, rather than changes in, the tradition's earliest forms and fabrics (Seager Thomas 2008, 40–1), small assemblages belonging to it may be incompletely representative of the phases to which they belong and/ or appear earlier than they in fact are — and so far, most of the assemblages recovered from the Coastal Plain are of this type.

The only way to deal with such 'scrappy' assemblages is to correlate them with bigger and more representative ones from elsewhere. This is made possible by the widespread nature of the tradition. It must be done reflexively, however, the result being that the period attribution of pottery groups and the features that yielded them is constantly and frustratingly, shifting, and in the full acknowledgement of the caveats regarding context integrity referred to above.

Of the Coastal Plain assemblages currently known, most clearly representative of the tradition's earlier phases are those from Kingston Buci (Curwen 1931, figs 3–23), which is almost wholly undecorated, and therefore attributed to its earliest phase (it was also unstratified!), and Selsey Seaside Field (Seager Thomas 2001, figs 3–8; 2008, figs 8.11–13 & 11.8), whose more 'developed' typology (notably a wide range of bowl types), its decorative repertoire, and wider range of fabrics, indicates a later attribution. A large pit group from Ford 1 (Hamilton 2004, figs 11–14), which, owing to a lack of decoration and two relatively early radiocarbon dates, *was* thought earlier than Seaside Field, most probably also incorporates material of the same date as, and possibly later than Seaside Field.

Later PDR is distinguishable because of its decoration, the relative angularity of the forms comprising it and a wider and increasingly sophisticated range of fabric types. However, with later groups — inevitably — there is an increased chance of mixing, while the size of

most existing groups is small, and of little use interpretatively. Indeed the present groups may take more from our overall knowledge of this phase of the tradition on the Plain, than they add to it.

The most important later groups from the Coastal Plain are probably those from Yapton and Selsey Coast Guard Station and East Beach. The pottery from Yapton (Hamilton 1987) recalls that from Selsey Seaside Field, but incorporates some decorated fine wares that might be later (*ibid.*, fig. 5.11). Selsey Coast Guard Station yielded a single fine ware sherd in a non-local glauconitic fabric, associated in Sussex with late PDR traditions, amongst a Ford 1-like site assemblage with lots of expanded rims and a fabric suite that *feels* different to that from nearby Seaside Field and is earlier, later or earlier and later than it. Selsey East Beach (Seager Thomas 2001, fig. 12) yielded a small but closed, decorated group in yet another distinct fabric suite.

Plain wares

Important early *looking* PDR pottery was present at Climping, Centenary House, Littlehampton and Birdham. Waterford Gardens (pit [36]) yielded a *very plain assemblage* — a small suite of medium to coarse flint-tempered fabrics, similar to those belonging to the preceding tradition, and a range of simple, heavily fingered forms (Waterford Gardens 15–17). It is most closely paralleled in a plain ware assemblage from Farnham, in Surrey (Elsdon 1982). Littlehampton and Centenary House both yielded thinner, more conspicuously fingered variants of the ‘hooked rim’ convex-sided jar referred to above (Littlehampton 4 and Centenary House 4). Also of probably early date are three pots with simple out-turned rims: Centenary House 4, Ford 5 and Yapton Road 5. This form has later, albeit perhaps mixed associations off the Plain (at Chanctonbury Ring and West Blatchington — Hamilton 2001b, fig. 10.15; Norris & Burstow 1950, pl. 1.4), but was present at Kingston Buci (Curwen 1931, fig. 22), and is absent from every demonstrably later assemblage from the Plain. Lastly, Birdham yielded a vessel (Birdham 2) similar to Kingston Buci’s pot 17 (Curwen 1931). The *precise* place within the PDR tradition of *all* these pots, however, is obscured by their association with or relationships to later PDR groups. The Waterford Gardens assemblage, for example, *overlay* a more developed PDR group (from pit [32]), Littlehampton 4 was found with Littlehampton 3, a developed plain ware type (*see below*), while the Kingston Buci assemblage, which provides the parallel for Birdham 2, was unstratified and incorporates other sherds, which on fabric or typological grounds could be later (Curwen 1931, figs 11 & 15; Seager Thomas 2001, fig. 3.4; 2008, 41). Finally, fabrics similar to the medium to coarse flint-tempered wares comprising these pots occur in association with more developed types elsewhere (e.g. at Selsey). In part perhaps, these relationships can be attributed to the deposition practices described above

under *Interpretative Problems*; in part perhaps, to the curation/ longevity of old pots. (Both Littlehampton pots comprised large sherds, which is more easily explained in terms of simultaneous deposition than subsequent mixing). But much doubt continues to surround their attribution.

Developing groups — developed post Deverel-Rimbury and/ or decorated post Deverel-Rimbury?

Littlehampton 4, whose plain cordon was paralleled on Chanctonbury Ring and at Ford (Hamilton 2001b, fig. 10.21; 2004, fig. 13.29), as a complete pot, is similar to one from Highstead, in Kent (Couldrey 2007, fig. 71; Macpherson Grant 1991). Birdham, Bognor, Ford 2, Northbrook College and St Bart's, Chichester, all displayed the same low level of decoration. The pottery from St Bart's is uncannily like that from Seaside Field Selsey. Both assemblages include cabled rims and applied, finger-tip impressed neck cordons (Chichester 17 and Seager Thomas 2001, fig. 4.24), whilst the principal fabrics from St Bart's, although fewer in number, are indistinguishable from Selsey's. As described, all these are classic developed plain ware assemblages. Once again, therefore, there is nothing much here new to Sussex or the Plain. Details of this phase of the PDR tradition on the Plain are already well published (Hamilton 1987; Seager Thomas 2001; 2008 etc.) and there is no point in repeating them here.

Development, however, was ongoing, and just as there are sherds amongst them, which are less developed, there are others which are more so.

Probably the most securely diagnostic of the latter are two rim sherds from Ford 2, which belong to similar bipartite bowls (Ford 3). The closest local analogue for these is a tiny rim sherd from Selsey Coast Guard Station (ditch [32] — unpublished). Features near to this latter yielded what looks like a plain ware PDR assemblage, but, importantly, this sherd is in a non-local glauconitic fabric, in Sussex, usually associated with later PDR traditions (Seager Thomas 2008, 41). (It should be noted that outside the county similar fabrics occur at different times — in Surrey, for example, they occur in PDR plain ware assemblages; in the Thames Valley, in Iron Age ones). The Ford 2 site also yielded a single sherd in a shelly fabric, which on identical grounds, might belong to a later phase of the tradition. Bognor, too, yielded a sherd in a glauconitic fabric [US], along with a finger-tip impressed rim in a fabric identical to one of those from Selsey Coast Guard Station (Bognor 1), the closest Sussex parallels for which come from Rummages Barn, on the Downs (Kenny 1985, fig. 4.1), the assemblage from which certainly incorporated late PDR forms. A second possible analogue, which was also directly associated with a late form, comes from Ford 1 (Hamilton 2004, fig 17.53).

Both of Birdham's fine ware bowl forms, moreover, *should* be relatively late. Birdham 3, which has a sharply angular shoulder recalls some

decorated types (e.g. Stoke Clump — Cunliffe 1966, fig. 1.4), while Birdham 5 is the same as or a forerunner of a late, round shouldered bowl/ jar form present on the Plain in assemblages from Ford 1 (Hamilton 2004, 17.52) and Selsey East Beach (Seager Thomas 2001, fig. 12.12), etc. Finally, Northbrook College yielded shelly and (five sherds only) glauconitic fabrics, and the same round shouldered bowl/ jar form (Worthing 1) as Ford 2 and Selsey East Beach.

Late post Deverel-Rimbury

Late PDR is best represented here by Roundstone Lane, which yielded what looks like a closed assemblage from two intercutting gullies [414] and [426]. This comprised 10 or 11 fabrics, three of which incorporated glauconite and two shell (all minority fabrics). This contrasts with six to eight in the developed plain ware assemblages from Birdham, Climping, Bognor and Northbrook College, etc. Angmering 5, 8 and 18 (ditch [504]) moreover have close parallels amongst decorated assemblages from Chanctonbury Ring (Hamilton 2001b, 9.10), Harting Beacon (Hamilton 1979, fig. 6.10), Slonk Hill (Hartridge 1978, fig. 12.6) and Stoke Clump (Cunliffe 1966, fig. 1.23). Also diagnostic of a late date are sherds from two or three pots that are unparalleled locally: Angmering 7, whose profile recalls the French *vase jogassien*, and Angmering 10 and 17 (gullies [414] and [426] — not illustrated), which have been deliberately spattered (or ‘rusticated’) with clay slurry. Both these forms occur in Kent (e.g. at Dolland’s Moor — Macpherson Grant 1990, 61), the latter — occasionally — in direct association with angular or decorated PDR pottery (e.g. in the ring ditch at Hawkinge Aerodrome — Seager Thomas & Hamilton 2001b), but essentially they are continental types, where at their earliest, they are once more associated with what in Britain would be described as decorated PDR pottery (e.g. Malrain *et al.* 1996, fig. 5).

The final pot of interest here is Bognor 8. Closely paralleled in the assemblage from Park Brow (Wolseley & Smith 1924, fig. 2) by a pot in a sandy flint-tempered fabric, not identical to but similar to its own, its exaggerated form is not usually grouped with PDR, but rather with the succeeding pedestal jar tradition (e.g. in Cunliffe 2005). Its sandy fabric however is similar to those from nearby Selsey East Beach, which is definitely PDR (Seager Thomas 2001, 36 & fig. 12), and, more importantly, its round shoulder and flared neck recalls those of the pots described above, which have unequivocal late PDR associations (Angmering 5 and 6, Northbrook College 1, etc). (Angmering 3, indeed, could be of the same type as Bognor 8). This view is broadly confirmed by the associations of the only other British parallel for it known to the writer, which comes from Canterbury Road, Hawkinge, adjacent to the aforementioned Aerodrome site, where it was associated with late PDR types and stratified *below* a group with later, La Tène ancienne affinities (pit [116]) (Hamilton & Seager

Thomas 2002). Bognor 7, from the same feature (ditch [1213]), which has a similar, but slightly less exaggerated profile, is probably of the same approximate date.

The pedestal jar group

Pedestal bowls/ jars are known from four sites on the Plain: Ford 1 (Hamilton 2004, fig. 12.58), Kingsham Farm, Chichester (unpub.), Wickbourne, Littlehampton (unpublished), and, now, Roundstone Lane (Angmering 42). Analogous pots also come from Goose Hill Camp (Boyden 1956, fig. 7) and Harting Hill (Frere 1950, fig. 6). Usually in burnished, fine flint-tempered fabrics, chronologically, these fall somewhere between the late PDR pottery discussed above and the saucepan pot, and in Three Age System terms are perhaps best described as Early/ Middle Iron Age. The very large pot represented by Angmering 42 is currently without close parallel. The pedestal jar group will be considered in detail in a forthcoming paper by the present writer.

POTTERY AFFINITIES

The pottery represented in the 11 assemblages belonged to a broad cultural continuum, the expansions and contractions of which occurred on a continental European scale. The Collared Urn locally is part of a southeastern group (Longworth 1984), but the collar, which defines the tradition and sets it apart from contemporary European traditions, was present throughout the British Isles, whilst a pan-European undercurrent during its currency is vouchsafed for by the dominant grog-tempered fabric, the recurrent use of twisted-cord decoration, and the presence across both the southern counties of Britain and northern France of Biconical Urns with horseshoe-shaped handles or — in French — *anses arciformes* (Burgess 1987, fig. 2).

The European connection continues with DR, which also occurred in France (at Roeux in Pas de Calais for example — Desfossés *et al.* 2000), and although it was not as widespread in Britain as the traditions which preceded it, and from which — presumably — it evolved, it can be found in forms similar to Sussex ones across the southeast and as far north as the East Midlands (Allen *et al.* 1987, figs 13–16). It is worth emphasizing, too, that many DR traits formerly thought restricted to or characteristic of particular areas, such as Ann Woodward's 'ovoid jar with outward flaring rim' and 'plastic applied cordons with finger-tipping' in Sussex pots (Ellison 1978, 34), are now known either to be much more widely distributed or to be individual variants of no interpretative importance.

Real homogenization of British and continental pottery styles, however, had to await the arrival of the earlier phases of *post* DR.

Stylistically, much of the northern French earlier PDR koine is indistinguishable from the British one, a concordance that can be followed *through* the tradition's development, while in Britain, for the first time since the Collared Urn, a single pottery tradition spanned most of lowland England as well as parts of Cornwall and Wales. Compare the Plain's pottery with that from Ruminghem in the Pas de Calais (Blancquaert 2000), for example — at least a dozen pots have close parallels. Or with assemblages from north of the Thames (e.g. Seager Thomas 2006b) or Kent (e.g. Couldrey 2007). The coming of this tradition's decorated phase, by contrast, heralded one of the most insular ceramic phases of British prehistory. All of a sudden every British region, including Sussex, belonged to a different decorative 'style zone' (cf. Cunliffe 2005, appendix A). Then pottery morphology itself began to diverge, culminating sometime during the Middle Iron Age with the appearance, apparently out of nowhere, of the Saucepan pot amid the distorted vestiges of the old PDR forms.

There are, however, a number of points of difference between assemblages from West Sussex and *elsewhere* that hold good *throughout* the period represented by the assemblages.

The foremost amongst these is the use of burnt flint for tempering. When during the Early Bronze Age almost all pottery was grog-tempered, the Coastal Plain produced at least two flint-tempered pots, the Charmandean Biconical and a Collared Urn from Westbourne (Musson 1954). Sussex DR pottery, like that from neighbouring Hampshire, was almost exclusively flint-tempered. Not so in Kent where we see occasional wholly grog-tempered pots (e.g. Kingsnorth on the Isle of Grain — Seager Thomas 2003), and further north — e.g. in Essex's Ardleigh tradition — where grog can be the dominant temper (Allen *et al.* 1987, fig. 19; Brown 1995, table 12.2). Likewise during PDR. As already noted, there was a proliferation of fabric types through the tradition, which incorporated tempers other than flint or which were demonstrably non-local. But except for sandy fabrics, like those identified at Bognor and Selsey East Beach, in Sussex, the further west the site, the less common these are.

There are also some genuine typological anomalies. In the southeast, comb impressions on DR pottery, such as those from Centenary House, currently focus on West Sussex (there are individual examples from Hampshire and Surrey — King 1989, fig. 4; Masefield 2002, fig. 6), decorated globular jars remain regionally distinct, while some forms, such as pre-firing, below rim perforations, which are common in assemblages from the Thames Valley (e.g. Beddington — Masefield 2001, fig. 6), Essex (e.g. Brightlingsea — Brown 2008, figs 22 & 25) and Kent (e.g. Bridge and Canterbury — Macpherson Grant 1992), are unknown in south central assemblages, including those from West Sussex and the Coastal Plain. In addition, on the Plain, there is an unusually visible overlap between it and PDR. Finally, at the end of the period represented by these assemblages,

when pottery morphologies nationally began to diverge, pottery on the Plain, while still flint-tempered, adopted a number of traits — notably rustication, but also a highly developed bowl type (Angmering 6 and 10) — otherwise associated only with contemporary grog and partially grog-tempered continental and Kent assemblages.

The interpretative implications of this duality are implicit in it but they are worth reiterating anyway.

Ceramically, West Sussex — including the Coastal Plain — belonged to a pan regional culture, and partook fully of changes in this. It belonged to this throughout the Bronze Age and into the Early Iron Age, when the culture fragmented. Throughout this period, however, aspects of it were adapted — presumably to suit local needs. Overall, the *impression* gained is of a region, which was the importer of traditions, rather than actual pots. But since we do not know which came first, we cannot say whether features such as below rim perforations on DR pots were additions to or subtractions from the koine. The best we can do is to acknowledge that otherwise similar pots were used in different ways in different regions. The same is probably true of differences in decoration: similar classes of pot were used to express different local aesthetics or meanings. But by PDR at least, it is clear that the Plain was partaking much less than other regions, of the far reaching resource strategies that were then becoming available, a trend which continued well into Iron Age (cf. Seager Thomas 2010c, 21–2). It is also clear that towards the end of the period there was a shift in orientation, from the west to the east.

These observations have implications both for our understanding of the users of this material, and our wider knowledge of the Bronze and Early Iron Ages locally. There were no ‘folk movements’, for example, even when new pottery styles appeared, an observation rendered clearer for the Plain than for many other regions by the very obvious overlaps between DR and PDR and between PDR and the succeeding traditions. On the other hand, as we shall see below, there is a very clear relationship between settlement density and the very existence of the pan regional culture to which these traditions belonged.

POTTERY DEPOSITION ON THE COASTAL PLAIN

Pottery catchments

At two levels, the particular environment of the Plain impacts on what pottery it is possible to recover, and how we can or should interpret this. As already noted, features are often only clearly visible at depth, and, in the unlikely event of their surviving to their full depth to the present day, we would probably truncate them during excavation. There is very little chance therefore of finding pottery at its point of use — Michael Schiffer’s

de facto and primary rubbish — unless, as in some ritual-type deposits, its use involved its burial (see below). This contrasts with the situation on the Downs, where, although actual floor surfaces will have been subjected to chemical weathering, the cutting of house terraces means that artefact assemblages can retain something close to their original relationships (e.g. Drewett 1982).

In addition, the features and the deposition of pottery in them are different from area to area and from period to period. For example, because of the way they are or have been sampled, and/ or because of the different needs of the sampled sites themselves when occupied, sites on the Plain comprise *proportionately* more ditches, and *proportionately* fewer pits and postholes than sites on the Downs, and on the Plain, Middle Bronze Age and transitional Middle/ Late Bronze Age sites comprise fewer deep pits than Late Bronze Age ones. And ditches, pits and postholes have different relationships to the settlements to which they belong, stay open for different lengths of time, and are filled differently. Finally, for the Late Bronze Age, there is the possibility that rubbish was curated prior to final discard. In terms of assemblage composition therefore, comparisons between sites, and the inferences we draw from them might not be quite what they seem.

Take Centenary House. Three things distinguish the pottery assemblage from this site from others recovered from Bronze Age settlement sites on the Plain. The first is the average sherd size. Compared to that of most stratified settlement assemblages from the Plain, it is small: 5.8 grams per sherd, as opposed to 6.9 at Birdham, 6.4 from excavations at Ford 1, 7.7 at Knapp Farm, Bosham, and 8.3 at Waterford Gardens (excluding its two near whole DR bossed jars, which may be ritual in origin). (Measured in relative terms, the difference between Centenary House and Waterford Gardens is huge). The second is the types of feature with which it is associated. Most PDR assemblages from the Plain, including those referred to above, come from or are focused on isolated pit clusters, a feature configuration which provides a local type fossil for settlements of the period (Hamilton 2004, 21), whereas the Centenary House assemblage was recovered from a wide area and a range of different feature types, including — most unusually for the Plain — the postholes of a roundhouse. The third is its typological composition, for, although essentially an early PDR assemblage, it, like the Waterford Gardens assemblage and some others of early date, lacks the fine wares usually associated with this tradition.

One explanation for these differences, which is wholly consistent with what we know of the period as one of cultural transition, is that the site's role differed from those of Birdham, Ford and the other sites (it didn't need the missing pot types), and/ or, that it was in some way culturally impoverished (it did not know or could not make the missing

types). But this is almost certainly an oversimplification. A wide range of feature types will usually also involve an equally wide range of fill mechanisms, and, in this case, these might have included some that produced, or resulted in the burial of, greater proportions of small sherds than was usual in pit filling (the average weight of sherds from pits in the Centenary House assemblage is 6.6 grams, similar to that of sherds from Ford 1, whereas the average weight of sherds from post-holes is 3.1 grams); and, in a destructive depositional environment, fine wares would be expected to suffer more than coarse wares.

Centenary House was a Bronze Age house site, and, on the one hand, a focus of intense and possibly destructive activity, and on the other, subject — on almost all ethnographic analogy — to at least periodic cleaning, not a midden. It follows therefore that not every activity that took place there, not every pottery relationship, need be accurately represented in the pottery assemblage from it.

Ritual deposits

Ritual practice here can be divided into two essentially different but overlapping things. The first of these, and the one most easily identifiable, is when the pot's role in a ritual was essentially functional — usually it was used as a container for something else, such as a cremation, an offering of food, or a hoard of metalwork. Such deposits have been recognized since antiquarian times as a part of the archaeological record of Sussex, including the Coastal Plain (e.g. Kenny 1989, 21, no. 7). The second is when the pot itself, whole or otherwise, is the offering. These have *not* been widely recognized on the Plain, or indeed anywhere else in Sussex, but their existence elsewhere in southern Britain during its prehistory is widely insisted upon in the literature (e.g. Hill 1995; Richards & Thomas 1984). In both, pot or sherd associations may be 'structured' in a way that is distinguishable from the patterns of mixing, breakage and distribution associated with different types of rubbish (e.g. Schiffer 1989, chapters 4 & 10), or — equally — they may not.

Urned cremations on the Plain definitely span the first two groups represented here. For the earlier of these, indeed, it has been suggested that this was their primary role (e.g. Burgess 1980, 89–95), and, while this view is now challenged elsewhere, none of the sherds from these excavations — most of them probably residual anyway — or of Collared/Biconical Urn from the Plain as a whole, gives us grounds for suggesting otherwise. What is striking, rather, is their overall sparseness, when compared to contemporary burials on the Downs. DR, too, seems locally to be represented mostly by cinerary urns — only with the arrival of PDR does the balance shift in favour of the domestic deposit. In addition, however, both individual DR and PDR pots on the Plain have been found filled with burnt stone and metalwork, occurrences which are difficult to explain,

except ritually (Powell-Cotton & Crawford 1924; Seager Thomas 2010b). Several whole or truncated empty pots, which may formerly have contained cremations or other types of offering, have also been recovered, including, for example, three small DR pots from Selsey (Kenny 1989, figs 5.1–3).

Given their excellent preservation, their rarity on the Plain, and the funerary associations of their closest Sussex parallels (Haywards Heath, Lewes, Park Brow and Patcham — Musson 1954), it can be suggested that the two near whole bossed jars from Waterford Gardens (Waterford Gardens 3 & 4) are of this latter sort. It is difficult, however, to see any deliberate strategy in their deposition. Neither was actually complete, although both were found below the level to which the site was stripped, and their findspots — at the top and bottom of widely separated and different sized pits [74 and 142] — were quite different. It is conceivable therefore that they are of another, perhaps the second type of deposition described above. But to find, on the one hand, two analogous pots of a rare type in such close proximity, and, on the other, so little other contemporary pottery, strongly suggests that they, and possibly the site that yielded them, had a special, non-domestic role during the period.

As already observed, evidence for the ritualization of pottery *per se* is hard to come by in Sussex. There have been some valiant inferences — e.g. at Gatwick Airport, where several groups of large conjoining sherds were interpreted as ‘deliberate and selective deposition’ (Every & Mephram 2005, 56). Indeed, on analogy with these and similar deposits from outside the county (e.g. Jones 2002, 48), individual groups from the sites discussed here may be similarly interpreted. Littlehampton 4, for example, itself possibly curated, comprises mostly large burnt sherds. At Ford 2, the complete base of a PDR jar was found upright in a pit [113], which had cut through a feature containing earlier, DR pottery and large quantities of burnt material. Likewise, at Roundstone Lane, the upper fill of a pit [656] yielded a complete pedestal base (Angmering 42). All of these deposits could be deliberate, rather than incidental. The trouble is, their morphology, although possibly ‘structured’, is wholly consistent with what would be expected of secondary rubbish as well. Thus Littlehampton 4, while comprising a number of large sherds, was incomplete and associated with sherds from two other pots, and the pots from Ford 2 and Roundstone Lane, the very parts of a pot one would expect to find whole and/ or upright! For these reasons, it is the view of the present writer that this second type of ritual, if it existed at all, would be better sought elsewhere.

Pottery deposition and settlement continuity

In so far as it is reflected by the presence of pottery *per se*, the evidence for settlement continuity from the present sites is unambiguous. Every site

which yielded Collared/ Biconical Urn (five in all) yielded DR pottery. Every site which yielded DR pottery (eight), yielded earlier PDR pottery (if we count Roundstone Lane and Angmering Bypass as a single site). Six sites yielded PDR plain wares, and of these half yielded developed plain wares, but of the ten sites that yielded plain wares of both types, only three — again including the two Angmering sites as one — yielded decorated PDR or equivalent wares. That is to say, the number of pottery using sites increased till around the end of the Late Bronze Age, then decreased suddenly. The contraction of population occurred, significantly, at a time when pottery styles began to diverge ([Table 1](#)). This contrasts slightly with the pottery evidence from the Downs, where, if we accept the conventional chronological attribution of decorated PDR pottery, the contraction occurred later.

In addition, however, there were changes in the visible intensity of pottery deposition, and in its foci.

Whereas there are almost as many Collared Urn as there are DR findspots on the Downs, relatively speaking, number of Collared Urn findspots on the Plain is a lot smaller (Seager Thomas 2008, tables 2 & 4). Likewise there are fewer distinguishable DR *settlement* as opposed to funerary assemblages (irrespective of the precise phase to which they belong). Why is this? Clearly population density did change, and so did the way pottery was used. But fully to understand these distributions we need to recall the nature of the available pottery catchments, and the way pottery was incorporated in these. In this context, it can be suggested that in terms of their on-site density during the Bronze Age, both Collared/ Biconical Urn and DR are grossly underrepresented, indeed that on the Plain most settlement assemblages earlier than PDR, if they survive at all — which seems unlikely — will be found in the ploughsoil or in our spoil heaps, rather than in stratified groups of the sort comprising the present assemblages. Thus in this particular case, the difference between the Plain and the rest of Sussex is perhaps more apparent than real.

Lastly, while there was an unambiguous floruit in pottery use during the Late Bronze Age, its actual foci shifted through the period when PDR was developing. (If the present writer's interpretation of the differences in Sussex DR typology is correct, something similar can be inferred of that tradition as well). Not a ceramic issue itself, this abandonment of sites is the key to differentiating the chronologically sequential sub-traditions that to characterize Bronze Age locally.

CONCLUSION

The 11 assemblages discussed here represent a huge addition to the number of second and early first millennium BC pottery assemblages known

from Sussex. Of special interest is their origin on the Coastal Plain, ceramically a hitherto poorly known region, sandwiched between the much better known Downs and the sea, an obvious conduit for cultural interaction and exchange during the period. Their study has thrown-up many new finds and previously unrecognized relationships. Owing to the peculiar conditions of preservation in these different regions, the records from them are not directly comparable; it is clear, however, that through the period represented by the assemblages both belonged to a much more widespread cultural continuum. It follows therefore that much of what characterizes the Plain will apply elsewhere, and *visa versa*, many of the visible differences being attributable to preservation, rather than culture. Amongst these we should include an absence of evidence for the ritualization of pottery, the relationship between ceramic diversification and settlement contraction, the flexible use of DR and PDR pots, etc. Local adaptations to the continuum, although reflecting a distinct and long established *local* community, were mostly functional. As far as the interpretation of pottery during the Bronze Age is concerned, therefore, we need not be thrown by differences across sites and regions, whilst the meaningful synthesis is *for once* a realistic option.

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THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY

by Mike Seager Thomas

METHOD STATEMENT

The pottery was analysed using the pottery recording system recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (1991). For each site, individual sherds were ascribed a fabric type on the basis of macroscopic examination and, where possible, assigned to a morphological/ decorative type, and catalogued. Sherd groups from each individual context assemblage were then counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Where possible, dating of fabrics was by on-site association with chronologically diagnostic feature sherds and other, associated fabrics. Otherwise it relied upon analogy with well-dated (e.g. by radiocarbon) assemblages from elsewhere (Needham 1996; Orton & Cunliffe 1984, fig. 5; Seager Thomas 2008; 2005, 85). Examples of individual fabrics and fabric groups are given below. Complete analyses can be found in the archive.

The aim of this was to sort assemblages into previously studied prehistoric typo-chronological groups/ traditions, known to be present in Sussex, the sequence of which is based on the loose seriation of different groups of fabrics and forms.

For the present assemblages, these are: Collared/ Biconical Urn, dated to between c. 2000 and 1500 cal BC (the Early Bronze Age), Deverel-Rimbury (hereafter DR), dated to between c. 1700 and 1150 cal BC (the Middle Bronze Age), post Deverel-Rimbury (hereafter PDR) (divisible sequentially into plain ware, developed plain ware and decorated), dated to between c. 1150 and the centuries immediately following 800 cal BC (the Late Bronze to Early Iron Ages), the pedestal jar group, which cannot be radiocarbon dated but falls between PDR and the saucepan pot continuum (the Early to Middle Iron Ages), and the saucepan pot continuum, dated to between c. 400 and 100 cal BC (the Middle Iron Age). Details of specific parallels between pots in the present assemblages and those from other Sussex and regional sites are given above.

POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE SUMMARIES

For the present volume the prehistoric pottery fabrics have been grouped generically into, G, grog-tempered, FF, fine flint-tempered, FMF, fine to medium flint-tempered, MF, medium flint-tempered, MCF, medium to coarse flint tempered, CF, coarse flint-tempered, and VCF, very coarse

flint-tempered. Fine here means smaller than coarse sand-sized; medium, coarse sand- to medium granule-sized; coarse, medium to large granule-sized; and very coarse, bigger than large granule-sized. The prefix R — e.g. RFF — means that the temper comprises less than 3% of the fabric; C — e.g. CMF — more than 15%. Otherwise it comprises between 3 and 15%. The suffix Q — e.g. MFQ — indicates a particularly sandy fabric; GL, a glauconitic fabric; and S, a shelly fabric. DC refers to decalcified calcitic stone — probably greensand.

Roundstone Lane, Angmering (ANG 00)

The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Roundstone Lane comprises 1,481 sherds weighing c. 15 kilograms. Most are unabraded. In all there are c. 26 dateable feature assemblages. These belong to five typochronological groups: Collared/ Biconical Urn, DR, late PDR, pedestal jar and saucepan pot. Owing to the absence from these of significant finds of later material, most can be assumed to date the features from which they come.

Collared/ Biconical Urn

A single abraded sherd in a characteristic corky, grog-tempered Collared/ Biconical Urn fabric (G) came from a Roman pit in Area C (pit [1225]).

Deverel-Rimbury

Typically for the region, the DR pottery comprises a small suite of five fine to very coarsely flint-tempered wares (CFF1, MCF, CF and two distinguishable variants of VCF). In terms of both sherd numbers and weight, it is dominated by coarse and very coarse wares:

Fine flint, CFF

15 to 20% coarse sand-sized burnt flint, and very rare (<1%) fine quartz sand. Friable. Body sherds at c. 6mm thick. No chronologically diagnostic forms occurred in this fabric but it was stratified below Angmering 30 (cremation [300]).

Medium to coarse flint, MCF

7 to 15 % medium sand-sized to small granule-sized burnt flint, and rare (1%) fine quartz sand. Friable. Body sherds from c. 9 to 12 mm thick. Angmering 28 and 38. Angmering 38 is a DR form. Angmering 28 could be DR or, possibly, PDR.

Coarse flint, CF

10 to 15% coarse sand-sized to small granule-sized burnt flint, and rare (not precisely quantifiable) quartz sand. Very friable. Body sherds from c. 9 to 12 mm thick. Angmering 21 and 30.

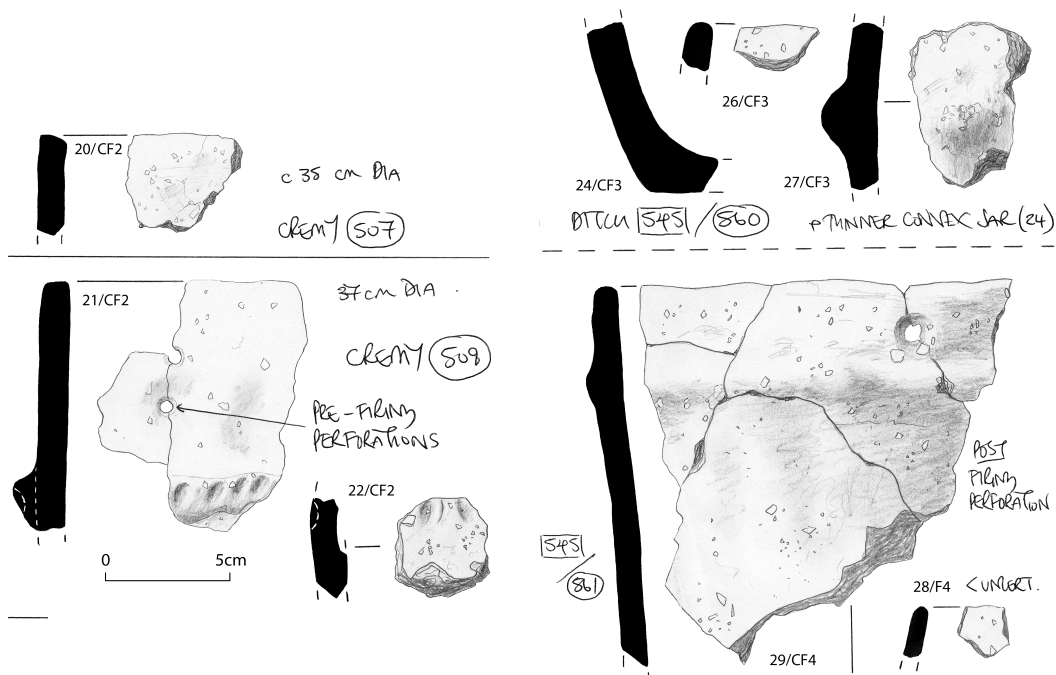
Very coarse flint, VCF1

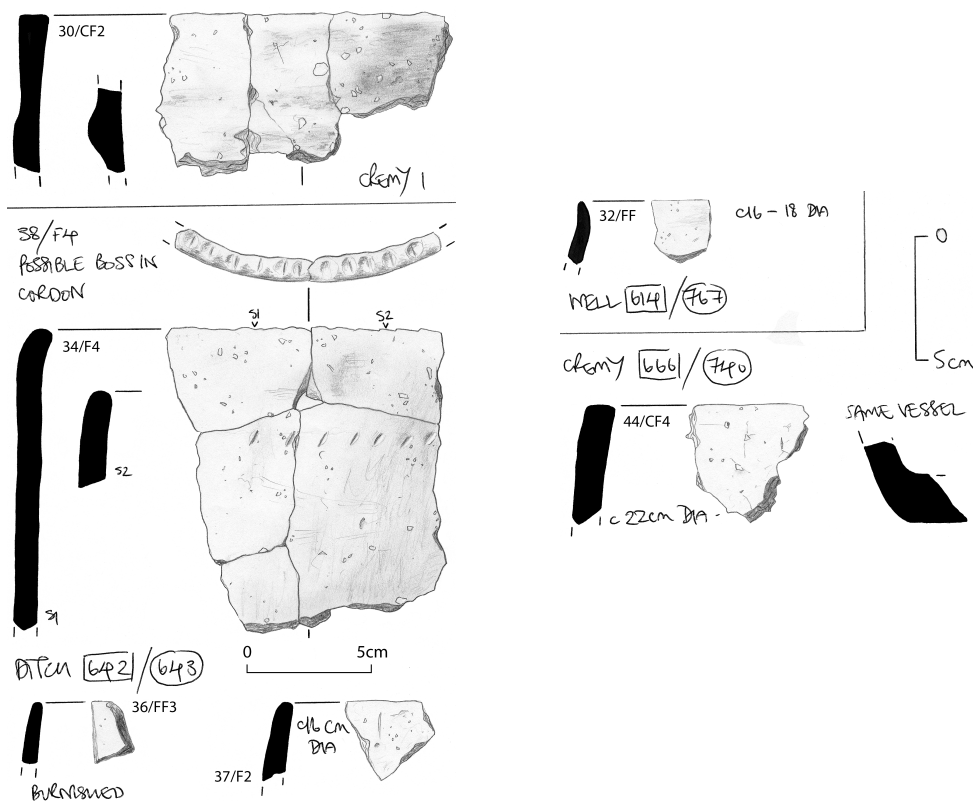
5 to 10% coarse sand- to granule-sized burnt flint (with a greater proportion of fine grade material than VCF2). Friable. Body sherds at c. 16mm thick. Angmering 25.

Very coarse flint, VCF2

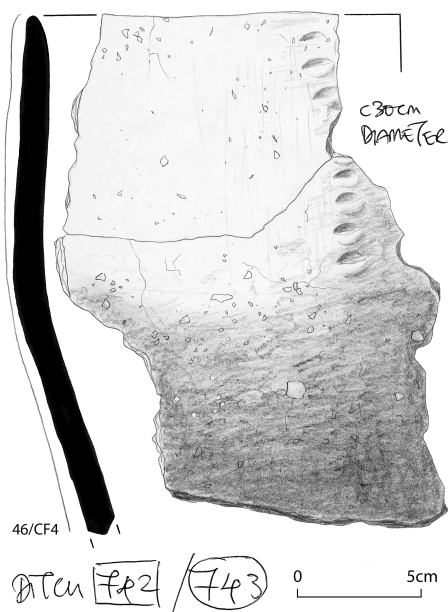
5 to 10% coarse sand- to granule-sized burnt flint. Friable. Body sherds from 10 to 13mm thick. Angmering 26/27, 29 and 46.

DR pot types present include a large bucket urn with an applied, finger-tip impressed cordon (Angmering 21), an ovoid, bossed jar (Angmering 26/ 27), a small bucket urn with an undecorated, raised or applied cordon (probably incorporating a boss) (Angmering 29), thin rim sherds from a bag-shaped or ovoid jars (Angmering 24 and 28), and a straight-side vessel with a lightly finger-tip impressed cordon and a slightly in-turned, finger-tip impressed rim (Angmering 38). There were also sherds with circular pre-firing and post firing perforations (respectively, Angmering 21 and 29). Less familiar, but with some DR traits and in indisputable DR fabrics (CF and VCF2), are a straight-sided urn with a boss and a notched shoulder (Angmering 30) and a large bipartite jar (a variant of Ellison-type 8 — Ellison 1978, fig. 15) with a vertically finger-tip impressed line between its rim and shoulder angle (Angmering 46). Fine ware forms are absent but their former presence can be inferred from fabric CFF.



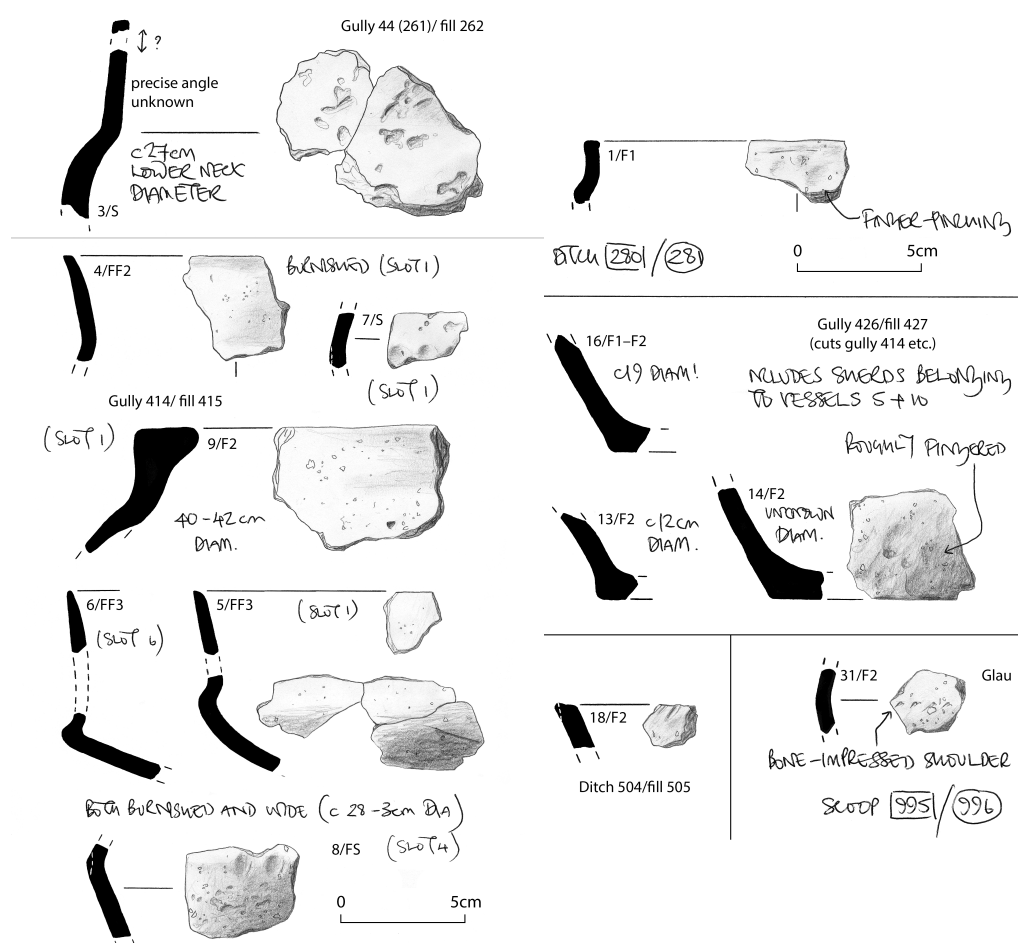


Significant DR assemblages were present in Areas B and D and in evaluation trench 42. These include several ditch-like features [545] and [642], a shallow pit [666], and cremation burials [300], [507] and [508], etc. Most useful interpretatively amongst these are the assemblages from cremation [300], which — uniquely on site — yielded DR fine (CFF) and coarse ware (CF) fabrics, cremation [508], which yielded two different types of fingertip impressed cordon (Angmering 21 and 22), and ditch [545], which yielded sherds from four pots (Angmering 25–9) and three fabrics (MCF, VCF1 and VCF2). DR pottery was also recovered from undated and post Roman features in Area C.



Post Deverel-Rimbury

Owing to the differences between DR and later pottery firing technology, it is easy to distinguish the late PDR from the DR fabrics on site. This applies irrespective of grade. If there is an overlap, it is with later first millennium BC pottery. However, the principal findspots of late PDR pottery yielded only one later prehistoric feature sherd, and it is probably unnecessary to look outside this period (and more specifically the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age) for dating. In all there are 10 PDR fabrics, most of them flint-tempered. These range from fine to coarse wares RFF, FF, CFF2, RMF, MF and MCF (an unillustrated heavily-gritted base). In addition, however, there are minority fabrics — in all grades — tempered with, or incorporating in addition to flint, glauconite (FFGL and MCFGL) and/ or shell (FS and S).



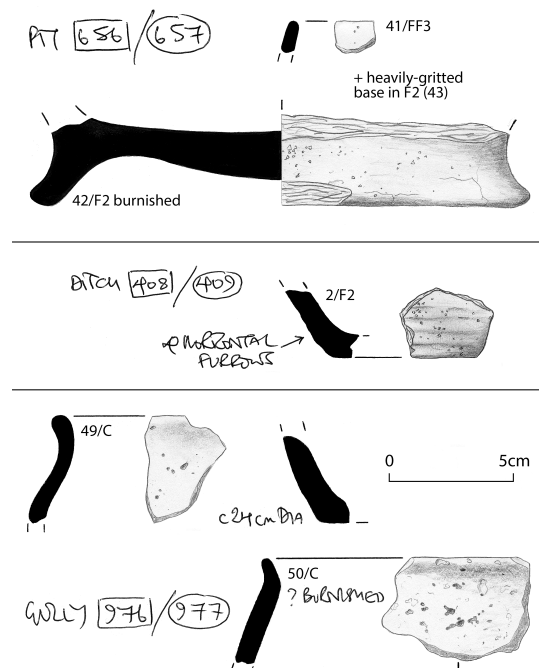
Most of the PDR pottery from Roundstone Lane belongs to a late, decorated phase of the tradition, attributable to the very end of the Bronze Age or the very beginning of the Iron Age, the later date being recommended here by the presence of two late bowl forms (Angmering 5 and 6) and a jar with a clay-spattered finish new to Sussex (Angmering 10/ 17), which elsewhere is never earlier than Early Iron Age, and is often much

later. Otherwise it comprises a wide but incomplete range of the known forms associated with this tradition, including, in terms of the number of individual vessels represented, a high proportion of fine wares: the neck of a shouldered jar (Angmering 1), a possible tri-partite jar (Angmering 4), the finger-tip or tool impressed shoulder angles of three shouldered jars (Angmering 7, 8 and 31), and an externally slashed rim of a tri-partite shouldered jar (Angmering 18). Angmering 3 might be an example of a rare high necked jar of a sort best represented on the Plain by Bognor 8 (see below). Four vessels, a heavily-gritted base (Angmering 34), a convex jar (Angmering 37) and two possible hemispherical bowls (Angmering 36 and 41), could belong to this or an earlier phase of the same tradition.

Late DR pottery occurred in Areas A, B and D and in evaluation trench 10 (Mayflower Way Evaluation). These include a major ditch [504] and a number of shallow gullies [414 and 426], etc. Key amongst these is gully [412], which yielded sherds from eight pots (Angmering 3–10), and seven different fabrics (FF, CFF, FFGL, S, FS, RMF and MF). PDR material also came from undated and post prehistoric features in Area C.

The pedestal jar group

The base of a large pedestal jar in fabric MF, came from the upper fill of a large pit in Area D [656] (Angmering 42).



The saucepan pot continuum

Three fabrics can be associated with this group, MF, described with the PDR fabrics described above, and fabrics tempered with decalcified calcareous rock and with greensand:

Decalcified calcareous rock, DC

15 to 20% medium to coarse sand-sized powder-filled voids, and rare (but not precisely quantifiable), red, Fe-oxide nodules or grog. Body sherds from c. 7 to 9mm thick. Angmering 49 and 50.

Greensand, GS

20% medium to coarse sand-sized greensand. Fabric GS is represented by a single body sherd from a Roman pit [1225]. This sherd was 10mm thick and weighed 20 grams. It was associated with single sherds in fabrics C and G (an Early Bronze Age fabric).

Typologically, the saucepan pot continuum was represented by a single base sherd from a saucepan pot (Angmering 48), a curviform or S-shaped jar (Angmering 49), and a vessel form new to the West Sussex Middle Iron Age, a jar with a pronounced out-turned rim/ vestigial neck (Angmering 50).

The saucepan pot comes from a Roman ditch in Area A [408], and Angmering 49 and 50, and many body sherds in fabric DC, from gully [976] in Area C.

Main Road, Birdham (BI 92 & MRB 00)

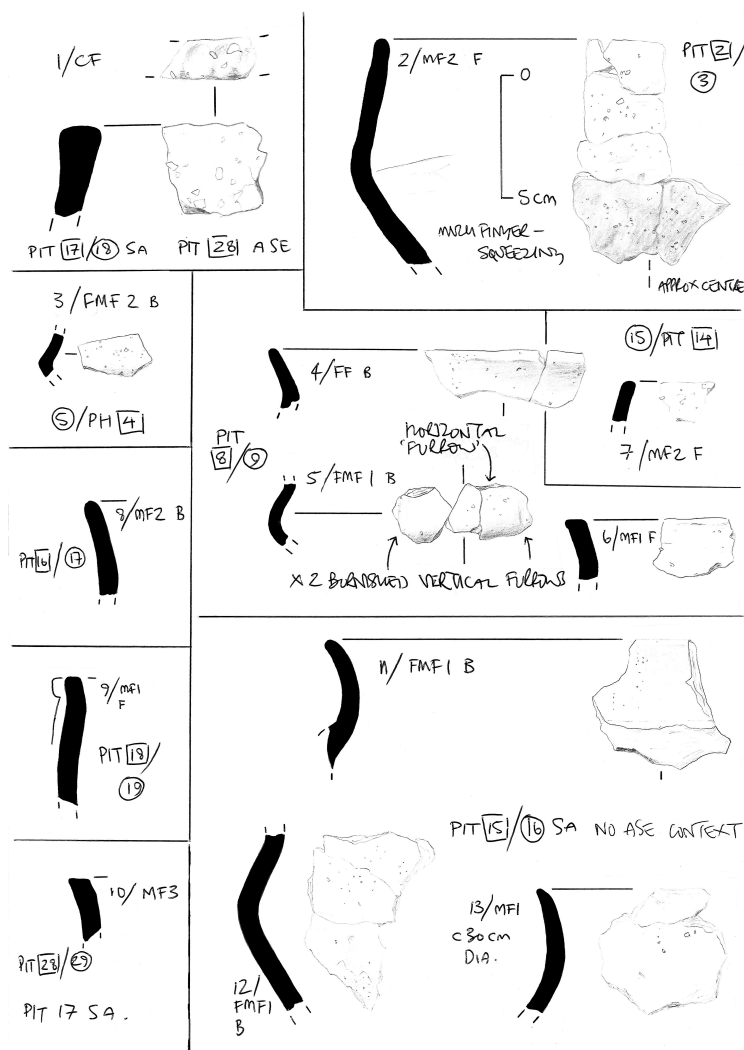
The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Birdham comprises 223 sherds weighing approximately 1.5 kilograms.

Prehistoric pottery was recovered from across the excavated area. The co-occurrence of a similar fabric suite in most excavated features and a cross-context conjoin between sherds from pits [8] and [14] (Birdham 4), the frequent burning and the abrasion of sherds, the mixing of earlier with later pottery, and of pottery with other categories of find, suggest that between breakage and final deposition, the bulk of the assemblage went through an intermediate stage, perhaps involving deposition in a midden, or a series of earlier pits, from which the feature fills excavated were derived at a later date.

The fabrics range from fine to coarse and all but one, comprising a single possibly intrusive sherd (tempered with calcitic rock), are flint-tempered: FF, FMF, CFMF, MF (a finer and a coarser variant), CMF and CF.

The assemblage is dominated by sherds belonging to the developed plain ware phase of the PDR tradition, but includes in addition a few earlier DR sherds (in fabric CF — e.g. Birdham 1), all from later contexts, as well

as a handful of earlier (Birdham 2) and — probably — later PDR ones (Birdham 3 and 5).



Bognor Regis College (CCB 07)

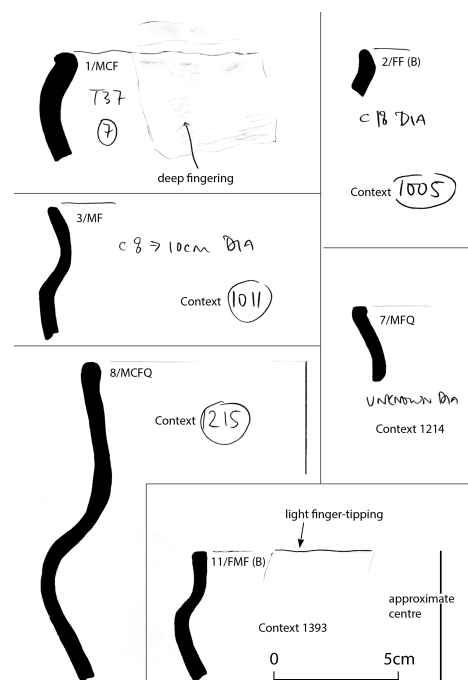
The prehistoric assemblage from Bognor comprises 339 sherds weighing approximately 2 kilograms. Sherds belonging to three groups are distinguishable: DR, PDR (the developed plain ware phase), and late PDR, although the vast majority of it belongs to the middle group. Except for a group of large joining sherds belonging to the last of these groups (Bognor 8), the assemblage is both highly weathered, and fragmented.

Deverel-Rimbury

DR pottery comes from two features only, pits [1157], in which it was residual, and pit [1254]. It comprises a handful of thick bodied sherds in a single, typically DR coarse flint-tempered fabric (CF). Pit [1254] yielded a flat-topped rim sherd from a bucket urn (Bognor 9).

Post Deverel-Rimbury

Owing to its fragmentation and the small size of the context assemblages comprising it, the bulk of the PDR assemblage is difficult to place exactly, but of the 11 features sherds that can be meaningfully reconstructed, four are decorated with fingertip impressions (Bognor 1, 10, 11 and 12) and three are burnished fine wares (Bognor 2, 5 and 11). This indicates that it belongs to a later, rather than earlier phase of the tradition — most likely the developed plain ware one (the morphology of the bulk of the assemblage would be consistent with, if not actually diagnostic, of such an attribution). Excluding sherds from ditch [1213], which belong to the end of the tradition (see below), the PDR assemblage comprises a suite of four, fine, medium and medium to coarse flint-tempered fabrics (FF, FMF, MF, MCF), closely analogous to other intermediate groups from the Plain.



The final, and ceramically the most important group, is represented primarily by sherds from ditch [1213], but it also includes one unstratified sherd.

In the upper fill of [1213], it was associated with some of the foregoing early fabrics, but importantly it includes four new, sparsely tempered ones as well, which as a group stand out on site as particularly sandy:

Quartz sand, Q

>25% medium to coarse quartz sand and < 1% coarse sand-sized, red Fe-oxide nodules. CQ is represented by a single c. 8mm thick, rounded shoulder sherd. It was directly associated with Bognor 7 and sherds in fabric MCFQ.

Medium flint with quartz sand, MFQ

1 to 2% coarse sand-sized burnt flint, common (but not precisely quantifiable) silt/ fine quartz sand, and <1% coarse sand-sized, red, Fe-oxide nodules. Neck sherds at c. 5mm thick. Bognor 7.

Medium to coarse flint with quartz sand, MCFQ

5% sand- to small granule-sized (with occasional large granule-sized) burnt flint and >25% fine quartz sand. Body sherds at 4 to 7mm thick. Stratified below fabrics CQ and MFQ. Bognor 8.

And the unstratified sherd:

Fine flint with glauconite, FFGL

2% medium sand-sized burnt flint, 7–10% medium quartz sand and 30% fine sand-sized glauconite. FFGL is represented by a single unstratified body sherd c. 7mm thick.

Typologically, the group is represented by Bognor 7 and Bognor 8, from. Bognor 7 comprises a small sherd with possible analogues in both developed plain ware and decorated PDR assemblages. In fabric MFQ, it was associated with fabrics Q and MCFQ (in the upper fill of the ditch). Bognor 8 is rather more special. Its exaggerated form is a rare one, locally and elsewhere, but a clear typological relationship between it and Angmering's high necked bowls and jars (Angmering 4–6), and its fabric and typological associations at Bognor and elsewhere, place it unambiguously towards the very end of PDR. Bognor 1, for reasons discussed in the synthesis above, might also be slightly later.

St. Bart's, Chichester (BCC 03 & 04)

The prehistoric pottery assemblage from St. Bartholomew's Close comprises 61 sherds weighing approximately 400grams. It belongs to the developed plain ware phase of the PDR pottery tradition. A very small assemblage, its primary interest lies in the resemblance between its five fabrics and some of those comprising the developed plain ware assemblage from Seaside Field, Selsey, which has associated radiocarbon dates of 2520±40BP (GU-9225) and 2695±45BP (GU-9226).

Fine flint, FF

10% fine to medium sand-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) fine quartz sand. Sherds at 3 to 4mm thick. No typologically diagnostic sherds occurred in this fabric.

Medium flint, MF

10 to 15% coarse sand-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) medium quartz sand. Body sherds at c. 8mm thick. No typologically diagnostic sherds occurred in this fabric.

Medium to coarse flint, MCF

7% sand- to large granule-sized burnt flint (with an emphasis on the coarse sand-sized fraction), rare medium and common fine (not precisely quantifiable) quartz sand. Body sherds at 7 to 9mm thick. No typologically diagnostic sherds occurred in this fabric.

Coarse flint, CF

10% sand- to large granule-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) medium quartz sand. Body sherds at c. 9mm thick. Chichester 17.

Typologically diagnostic of the developed plain ware phase of the PDR tradition are sherds from a shouldered jar with a cabled rim, an applied, fingertip impressed/ cabled neck and a fingertip impressed shoulder (Chichester 17). Also of interest is a tiny (unillustrated) sherd in fabric CF decorated with two parallel incised lines c. 6mm apart.

Stratified pottery was present in only two features, ditch [18] and spread [74].

No images available

Waterford Gardens, Climping (FOR 00 & FOC 02)

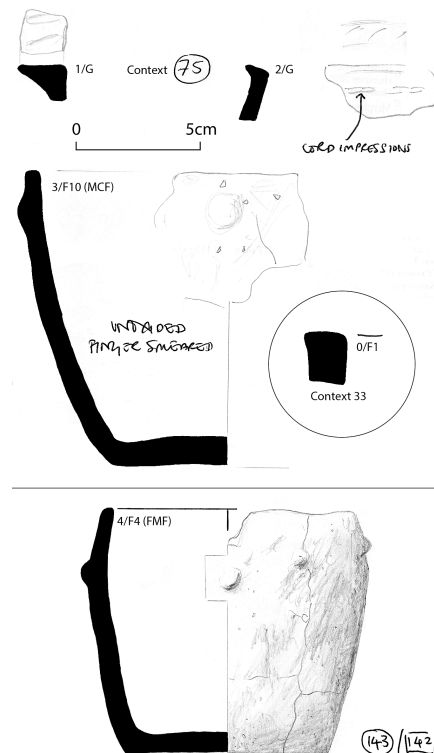
The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Climping comprises 348 sherds weighing approximately three kilograms. Three typo-chronological groups are represented: Collared/ Biconical Urn and DR, both of which were spread very thinly on site, and earlier PDR.

Collared/ Biconical Urn

Collared/ Biconical Urn was represented by six badly abraded sherds in a typical Early Bronze Age grog-tempered fabric from pit [74] and ditch [109]. In both, owing to their abrasion and/ or contextual associations, it is assumed the sherds were residual. Decoration on sherds from pit [74] included what looks like whipcord and twisted-cord impressions (Waterford Gardens 1 and 2). Waterford Gardens 1, though rim-like, cannot be meaningfully reconstructed; Waterford Gardens 2 comprises the rim and upper collar of a Secondary Series or Late Collared Urn.

Grog, G

c. 9% grey, coarse sand- to small granule-sized grog, <1% coarse sand- to small granule-sized burnt flint, and up to 25% fine quartz sand. Sherds at c. 7mm thick. Waterford Gardens 2.



Deverel-Rimbury

DR material was no less sparse but, unusually, included two small, near complete bossed-jars — Waterford Gardens 3, which was found mouth down within the upper part of pit [74], and Waterford Gardens 4, which sat upright on the base of pit [142]. In contrast to the bulk of DR pottery found on the Plain, and discussed here, both were in medium to coarse flint-tempered fabrics:

Medium to coarse flint, MCF

5% coarse sand- to (occasionally) large granule-sized burnt flint. Laminated. Body sherds at c. 8mm thick. Waterford Gardens 3.

Medium to coarse flint with quartz, MCFQ

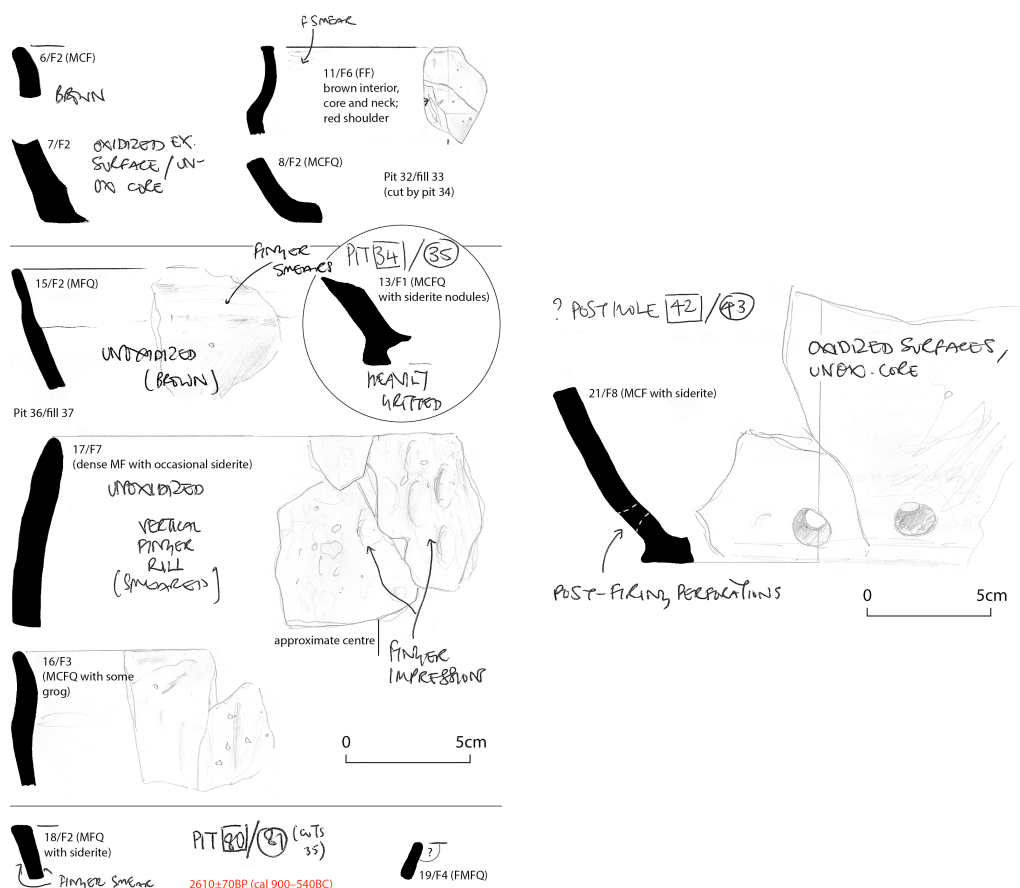
7 to 10% medium to coarse sand-sized burnt flint, <1% large granule-sized burnt flint, and c. 30% quartz sand. Body sherds at 6 to 8mm thick. Waterford Gardens 4.

Post Deverel-Rimbury

The bulk of the assemblage is PDR. Largely unweathered, it comprises a small suite of six flint-tempered fabrics, ranging in coarseness from fine to medium (RFMF, MF, three variants of MFCQ and CMF). Individually, these have close parallels in other PDR assemblages from the Coastal Plain. There is, however, a difference in feel between the Climping pottery and pottery from many of these other sites, which more closely recalls DR than PDR traditions. This is attributable primarily to the lack of fine ware sherds amongst the assemblage, the high temper density of fabric CMF, and the proportion of sand in several fabrics, which — when compared those from

proximate PDR sites like Ford and Littlehampton — is high, but which recalls one of the site's DR fabrics (CMFQ). The PDR pottery from was relatively unweathered.

Most of the PDR material comes from a group of four inter-cutting pits in Area A ([32], [34], [36] and [81]). Typologically, the forms present in these are characteristic of the plain ware phase of the PDR pottery tradition — apart from its overall morphology, there it incorporates no decoration at all. The earliest looking group (from pit [36]), however, which includes sherds from a very weakly shouldered jar (Waterford Gardens 16), a heavily fingered convex-sided jar in fabric CMF (Waterford Gardens 17), and no fine wares, was stratified above an assemblage which incorporates a jar or bowl in the site's finest fabric of probably later type (RFMF — Waterford Gardens 11). Pit [80], which yielded sherds in PDR fabrics RFMF and MFQ, and was stratigraphically synchronous with the early-looking group, produced a radiocarbon date of 2610 ± 70 BP (BETA-152860).



Finally, posthole [42], located some distance from the pit group, yielded the base of a large, saggy PDR jar with post-firing holes on either side of a conspicuous break — presumably repair holes (Waterford Gardens

21 — cf. Ellison 1972, 111). (Could this in fact be the base of a cremation?).

Yapton Road, Climping (YRC 05)

An assemblage of 625 sherds of prehistoric weighing approximately 4 kilograms was recovered during excavations at Yapton Road. Three typochronological groups were distinguishable: Biconical Urn, DR and PDR. The last two merge seamlessly into each other, probably indicating a transitional element within the assemblage.

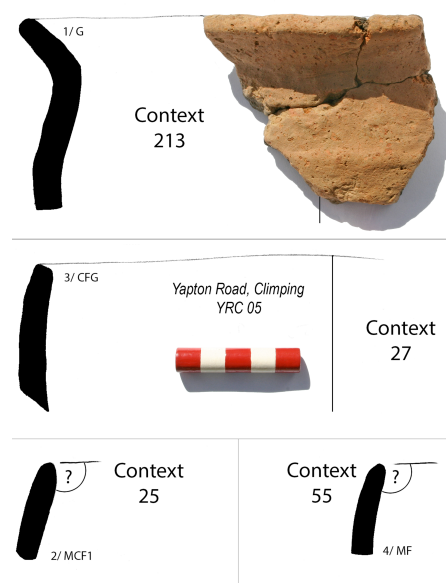
Aside from sherds from a single, probably transitional DR/ PDR cremation vessel (Yapton Road 3), context groups are mostly small and incorporate few feature sherds. The PDR assemblage shows signs of heavy weathering/ abrasion.

Biconical Urn

The earliest material is from pit [212], which yielded parts of the rim and shoulder of a grog-tempered Biconical Urn, a vessel type that is rare locally, and spread [272], which yielded body sherds in a similar grog-tempered fabric:

Grog, G

c. 20% very coarse sand-sized grog (which is very difficult to see against a near identical matrix), c. 10% fine sand- to coarse sand-sized, red Fe, and rare (not precisely quantifiable) fine quartz sand. Body sherds at c.11mm thick. Yapton Road 1.



Deverel-Rimbury

DR is represented by three fabrics: MF1, MCF1 (represented by different, slightly convex-sided jars — Yapton Road 2 and 3) and CF. In terms of their grade, these are typical DR fabrics, but MCF1 is notable for the possible inclusion in it of grog.

Medium flint, CMF

15% medium to very coarse sand-sized burnt flint and c. 25% fine quartz sand. Body sherds at 5mm thick. Yapton Road 4.

Medium to coarse flint, MCF1

5% medium sand- to medium granule-sized burnt flint (with an emphasis on the larger size grade) and c. 25% medium quartz sand. Has a slightly waxy feel as though it contains grog or Fe-oxides (neither of which are actually visible). Body sherds at 7mm thick. Yapton Road 2.

Coarse flint, CF

10 to 15% fine sand- to medium granule-sized burnt flint, 25% fine to medium quartz sand, and sparse (not precisely quantifiable) coarse sand sized, red, Fe-oxide nodules. Body sherds at c. 12mm. No typologically diagnostic sherds occurred in this fabric but it was directly associated with Yapton Road 2.

Deverel-Rimbury/ post Deverel-Rimbury

Yapton Road 3 is probably intermediate between DR and PDR. Its fabric (CF1), the even thickness of the sherds comprising it, and its lumpy, roughly smoothed finish are characteristically DR, and probably any single body sherd from it would, in isolation, have been attributed to that tradition, but its shouldered form and hooked rim are characteristics more usually associated with the PDR tradition.

Coarse flint, CFG

5 to 10% sand- to very large granule-sized burnt flint, very rare small pebble sized burnt flint, unquantifiable grog, and 5% medium quartz sand. Body sherds from 8 to 12mm thick. Yapton Road 3.

Yapton Road 3 was found alone in pit [26], in the middle of the later (?) field system.

Post Deverel-Rimbury

The remaining four fabrics — all flint-tempered — comprise a typical early PDR suite, in terms both of their numbers and the types and grades of temper present. The lack of truly coarse wares in it compares to a similar lack in the assemblage from Waterford Gardens (above):

Fine flint, FF

7 to 10% medium to sand-sized burnt flint, 2% medium to coarse sand-sized, red, Fe-oxide nodules, and c. 25% fine to medium (?) quartz sand. Body sherds at 3mm thick. Yapton Road 7.

Fine to medium flint, FMF

5% fine to (rare) coarse sand-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) fine quartz sand. Has a slightly waxy feel as though it contains grog or Fe-oxides, neither of which are actually visible (cf. MCF1). Body sherds at c. 6mm thick. No typologically diagnostic sherds occurred in this fabric but it occurred in several definitively LBA contexts.

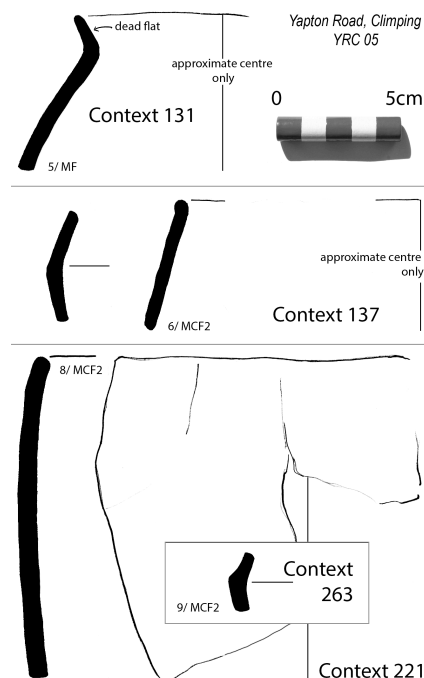
Medium flint, MF

5% medium to very coarse sand-sized burnt flint and c. 25% fine quartz sand. Body sherds at 5mm thick. Yapton Road 5.

Medium to coarse flint, MCF2

5% medium sand- to medium granule-sized burnt flint (with an emphasis on the larger size grade) and c. 25% medium quartz sand. Body sherds at 7mm thick. Yapton Road 6.

Early PDR forms present include a thinner, more conspicuously fingered variant of the convex-sided jar referred to above (Yapton Road 8) and, possibly, the simple out-turned rim/ neck of Yapton Road 5, which, although by no means restricted to early assemblages, is associated with them on the Plain.



All of the most diagnostic assemblages belonging to this group come from pits: e.g. [136], [226] and [245].

Hildon Close, Durrington (HCE 03)

27 prehistoric sherds weighing just over a hundred grams were recovered from Hildon Close. They were present in small groups only and most are small and heavily abraded. Since no feature sherds were present the attribution of the assemblage rests wholly upon its constituent fabrics. These are all flint-tempered and include coarse DR, earlier PDR types, and some that could be either, suggesting the possibility of a transitional element. DR pottery comes from ditch [158], indeterminate from pit/posthole [162] and ditch [181], and PDR from pit/postholes [168], [171] and [177], ditch [158] and a recent feature.

Northbrook College, Durrington (NCW 01 & NBK 01)

The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Northbrook College comprises 354 sherds weighing approximately 2 kilograms. Most of the sherds are un-abraded. Four typo-chronological groups are represented: DR, PDR (the plain and/ or developed plain ware phases), late PDR and — probably — the saucepan pot continuum.

Deverel-Rimbury

DR pottery was represented by sherds in a single very coarse flint-tempered fabric recovered from three contexts only.

Post Deverel-Rimbury

Earlier PDR pottery was represented by a suite of five four flint-tempered fabrics: CFMF, FMF, MF (two variants) and MCF:

Fine to medium flint, CFMF

10–20% fine to coarse sand-sized burnt flint (emphasis on the small size range). Body sherds at 6 to 8mm thick. Northbrook College 1.

Fine to medium flint, FMF

3–7% fine to medium sand-sized burnt flint and unquantifiable fine micaceous quartz sand. Body sherds at 5 to 6 thick. Northbrook College 2.

Medium flint, MF1

7–10% fine to very coarse sand-sized burnt flint and unquantifiable fine micaceous quartz sand. Body sherds at 6 to 11 thick. Northbrook College 3, 4 and 7.

Medium flint, MF2

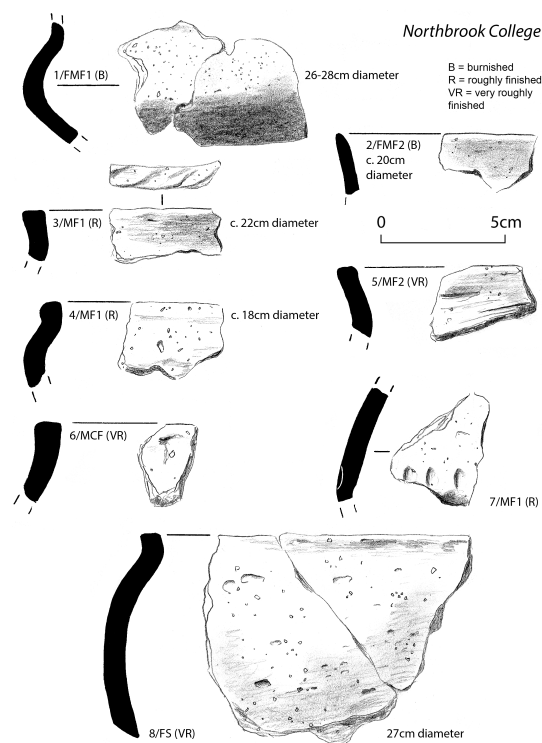
3–7% fine to very coarse sand-sized burnt flint and unquantifiable fine micaceous quartz sand. Body sherds at 9 to 13 thick. Northbrook College 5.

Medium to coarse flint, MCF

3–10% fine sand- to large granule-sized burnt flint (emphasis on the coarse sand-sized fraction) and unquantifiable fine micaceous quartz sand. Body sherds at 7 to 10 thick. Northbrook College 6.

These fabrics — mostly from later contexts — occur in forms characteristic of the plain and developed plain ware phases of this tradition (Northbrook College 3, 5 and 6). They were spread across the site, mostly in small pits and postholes.

Overlapping with these is a third suite that includes an additional three fabrics (FFGL, S and FS). While occasionally associated with earlier traditions in Sussex, both the range of fabric types represented by it and most of the individual fabrics comprising it are characteristic of later phases of the PDR tradition. Additionally, sherds from a feature assemblage from context [22], belonging to this suite, come from an round shouldered jar or bowl of a type usually associated with later decorated phases of the PDR tradition (Northbrook College 1).



Fine flint with glauconite, FFGL

3 to 10% fine to medium sand-sized burnt flint and unquantifiable fine to medium glauconite and quartz sand. Body sherds at 6 to 9mm thick.

Shelly, S

Sparse (not precisely quantifiable) shell or platy voids and unquantifiable fine micaceous quartz sand. Body sherds from 7 to 9mm thick. No diagnostic

feature sherds occurred in fabric S but it occurred in two PDR assemblages, one of which also incorporated fabric FS (ditch [1051]).

Flint and shell, FS

7 to 10% fine sand- to large granule-sized burnt flint (emphasis on the very coarse sand-sized fraction), sparse (not precisely quantifiable) shell or platy voids, and unquantifiable fine micaceous quartz sand. Body sherds from 7 to 9mm thick. Northbrook College 8.

Late PDR material was concentrated in the southwest of trench 1, in and around two ring ditches. It was also present — in association with fabric DC (see below) — in a further ring ditch in trench 3.

The saucepan pot continuum

The final group is represented by fabric DC. This is a finer variant of Roundstone Lane's Middle Iron Age fabric DC. At Northbrook College its associations were PDR. Locally, fabric DC tends to be associated with contemporary flint-tempered fabrics, which, in featureless body sherds, can be indistinguishable from PDR fabrics, and it postulated therefore that some abraded body sherds grouped with the PDR pottery above are of this date as well.

Ford Airfield (FAF 03 & 06)

The prehistoric assemblage from Ford comprises 432 sherds weighing approximately 2.5 kilograms. It incorporates Collared/ Biconical Urn, DR, PDR, which dominates the assemblage, and saucepan pottery.

Collared/ Biconical Urn

Collared/ Biconical Urn on site is represented by a single corky, grog-tempered fabric (G). It comprised just three, probably residual sherds, from ditches [30] and [40].

Deverel-Rimbury

The DR suite comprises two typical coarsely flint-tempered fabrics (CF and VCF). The coarser of these is thick-bodied, the less coarse — which overlapped with pottery belonging to the succeeding tradition on site — both thick and thin-bodied.

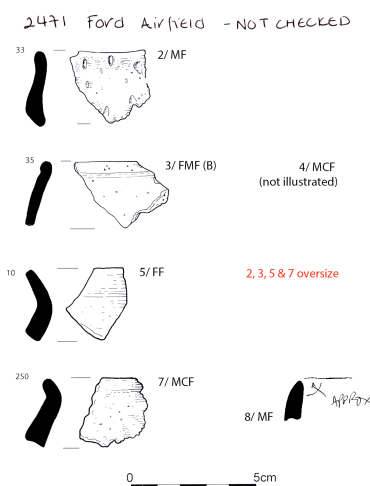
Heavily weathered DR pottery came from context [212], where it was overlain by unabraded PDR pottery. This feature resembles a 'cooking place'. DR — and only DR — pottery was also recovered from the fills of three ditches ([110], [264] and [321]), one of which — significantly — was on a different orientation to those comprising the site's Late Bronze Age field system.

Post Deverel-Rimbury

The PDR pottery comprises mostly finer flint-tempered fabrics (FF, FMF, MF, MCF and FS). Some of these (e.g. FF and MF) occur in forms associated with the beginning of the tradition (Ford 5 and 8), but their overall range, the low level decoration (Ford 2 and 3), the presence of near identical sherds from two bi-partite bowl/ s (Ford 3 and unillustrated) and, in an unambiguously PDR assemblage (from context [292]), of a sherd in a silty, flint and shell-tempered fabric (FS), suggest a developed plane ware attribution.

The typology of the assemblage, differs markedly from the much larger one excavated at Ford Airfield in 1999.

Interpretatively, the most important assemblages come from pits [34] and [361], which yielded the bi-partite bowls referred to above as well as a range of fabric types, ditch [294], and contexts [211] and [361], which were also large and overlay and/ or were associated with [212], referred to above.



The saucepan pot continuum

The Middle Iron Age fabric, DC, is the same as those from Angmering and Northbrook College. It was recovered from a Roman feature.

Littlehampton (HRL 05)

The prehistoric assemblage from Littlehampton comprises 254 sherds weighing approximately 3 kilograms. Three typo-chronological groups are represented: Collared/ Biconical Urn (s single sherd in a corky, grog-tempered fabric), DR and PDR.

Deverel-Rimbury

DR pottery comprises sherds in two coarsely flint-tempered fabrics (CF1 and VCF):

Coarse flint, CF1

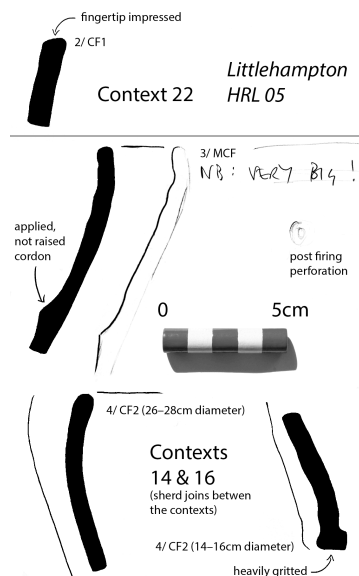
10% medium sand- to small granule-sized burnt flint and sparse to common (not precisely quantifiable) fine to medium quartz sand. Littlehampton 2.

Very coarse flint, VCF

15% medium sand- to large granule-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) fine quartz sand. Littlehampton 1.

In addition, a tiny sherd in a fine to medium flint-tempered fabric (FMF) associated with Littlehampton 1 might be a DR fine ware. Owing to a similarity between it, however, and the finest grade of the fabric comprising Littlehampton 3, its precise dating here must remain uncertain.

The site yielded two unweathered rim sherds from different thick-bodied DR urns (Littlehampton 1 and 2). The rim of Littlehampton 2 is fingertip impressed. DR pottery comes from contexts [4], in which it was associated with later material, [8] and [22].



Post Deverel-Rimbury

All of the Littlehampton's PDR fabrics are flint-tempered. The small range present — when compared to the local koine as a whole — suggests an earlier rather than later attribution for the assemblage:

Fine flint, FF

3–5% fine to medium sand-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) fine quartz sand. No diagnostic feature sherds occurred in fabric FF but sherds in it were directly associated with fabrics MF, MCF and CF2.

Medium flint, MF

15% fine to very coarse sand-sized burnt flint. Sparse to common (?) quartz sand. Littlehampton 5.

Medium to coarse flint, MCF

15% fine to very coarse sand- to medium granule-sized burnt flint and common (not precisely quantifiable) fine quartz sand. Littlehampton 3.

Coarse flint, CF2

15% medium sand- to very large granule-sized burnt flint and sparse to common (?) fine to medium quartz sand, possibly with rare glauconite. Littlehampton 4.

The PDR assemblage is dominated by sherds from two burnt, large thin-bodied jars, one shouldered in fabric MCF (Littlehampton 3) and one convex-sided, possibly with a 'hooked' rim, in fabric CF2 (Littlehampton 4), sherds from which occurred together in contexts [14–16]. Littlehampton 4, and another, smaller convex-sided jar (Littlehampton 5) from the same group of contexts, would be at home in an early plain ware assemblage. Littlehampton 3's closest analogues, both locally and elsewhere, are in later developed plain ware and decorated PDR assemblages. The later is of intrinsic interest because of the presence of a post-firing perforation below the surviving rim.

Centenary House, Worthing (GH 93 & CEN 01)

Excavated features at Centenary House yielded 279 prehistoric sherds weighing approximately 1.5 kilograms. Pottery belonging to two, inextricably mixed and perhaps therefore overlapping, typo-chronological groups is discernable within it: DR and earlier PDR. Owing to the small number of feature sherds within the assemblage, dating of the site rests heavily upon the fabrics comprising these.

These fabrics — six in all — range from medium to very coarse flint gritted wares (RMF, FMF, FMFQ, MCFQ and two grades of CF). Several do not occur in chronologically diagnostic form on site, but all were either directly associated with them or have dated parallels on other sites within the region. The second most common of these (CF1) occurred in both DR and PDR form (Centenary House 2, 5 and 7). Unusually for an assemblage with PDR affinities no fine wares at all were present.

Deverel-Rimbury

With the exceptions of FMFQ and MCFQ, all of the fabrics from the site could be DR, but two only occur in an indisputable DR form, Centenary House 1, the rim of a large straight or convex-sided jar in fabric CF2, and Centenary House 5, a very thick sherd with comb impressions in fabric CF1.

These come from widely different parts of the site (pit [44], close to roundhouse 1, and gully [E16]).

Post Deverel-Rimbury

PDR is represented by Centenary House 2, a heavily-gritted base, Centenary House 4, a hooked-rim convex-side jar with a thin, finger-squeezed body from the same feature as Centenary House 1 (their fabric, CF1, although present in roundhouse 2, was concentrated on roundhouse 1; by contrast, Centenary House 1's fabric CF2 occurred across the site), and Centenary House 7/ 9, from a shouldered jar or bowl, and the only burnished sherds from the site. These come from pit [158] and scoop [168], inside roundhouse 2.

